



## Timely Tidbits ...

### See You in 2008!

The friendly folks at "the little paper" will be taking a couple of weeks off for a little R&R, so our next issue won't be published until January 11, 2008.

We wish our readers a happy, healthy holiday season, and look forward to seeing and serving you again next year.

### Primary's Registration Deadline Looms

Citizens who have not yet registered to vote, but wish to participate in Michigan's Presidential Primary on January 15, must register by Monday, December 17.

For further information, visit [www.michigan.gov/sos/](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/) and click "Voter registration deadline nears for presidential primary election."

### "Santa Paws" Photos

Have your pet's picture made with "Santa Paws" at Fluff 'n' Puff Pet Grooming (36628 Goddard) on Saturday, December 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$5 per photo, with \$2 of that amount being donated to the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund.

### Decorating Contest Winners Announced

Winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest sponsored by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation were:

- first place (\$100) – 6600 Ball Road,
- second place (\$25) – 28039 Durness (Rudgate), and
- third place (\$15) – 15701 Huron River Drive.

The next time you need a break from your holiday hustle, why not take a drive and check them out?

### Holiday Mail Deadlines

Wondering if you still have time to get a holiday card or package to someone outside the United States? Visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) and click on SEE HOLIDAY MAILING CALENDARS to find guidelines for military and international mail.

## FBI Reports Crime Statistics for Brownstown, Huron, Romulus, Taylor, and Van Buren

Recently issued reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that the number of certain violent and property crimes reported in *the little paper's* coverage area in 2006 remained fairly stable when compared to 2005.

Populations, too, fluctuated only modestly, with Huron Township growing by the largest percentage (about 5.4%), and Taylor showing the biggest decrease (just under 1%).

In Taylor – which, with over 64,000 residents, has more than twice the population of the next largest community (Brownstown) – the overall violent crime rate stayed the same. Although murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, and robbery were on the rise, aggravated assaults were down. "Property" crimes like burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft all decreased significantly. Arsons more than doubled.

Experiencing the most dramatic drop in property crimes was Van Buren

Township, which plummeted from 512 in 2005 to 198 in 2006. Murder and rape stayed virtually the same, while robberies decreased and assaults increased. The number of arsons did not change.

Property crimes – especially burglary – were down across the board in Brownstown, but violent crimes (except robberies) were on the rise, especially rapes, which nearly doubled. The number of arsons decreased.

Huron Township – the second-smallest community and the only one that did not report a murder/nonnegligent manslaughter or arson in 2006 – had an overall drop in its violent crime rate. Property crimes were also down overall, although larcenies and car thefts were up.

In Romulus, an increase in violent crime was due almost exclusively to a rise in the number of aggravated assaults. All property crimes were down – some significantly – but arsons had

almost doubled.

Only rapes were on the rise in Sumpster Township, which experienced an overall drop in violent crime. Property crimes also decreased overall, even though burglaries were up. The number of arsons more than quintupled.

Local municipalities' data is summarized below.

#### Brownstown Township – 2006 (2005)

- population: 29,074 (28,064)
- violent crime overall: 76 (67)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 1 (0)
- forcible rape: 13 (7)
- robbery: 9 (9)
- aggravated assault: 53 (51)
- property crime overall: 643 (714)
- burglary: 130 (182)
- larceny/theft: 413 (426)
- motor vehicle theft: 100 (106)
- arson: 6 (8)

#### Huron Township – 2006 (2005)

- population: 15,787 (14,980)
- violent crime overall: 30 (38)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 0 (0)
- forcible rape: 4 (5)
- robbery: 4 (4)
- aggravated assault: 22 (29)
- property crime overall: 351 (353)
- burglary: 66 (87)
- larceny/theft: 211 (203)
- motor vehicle theft: 74 (63)
- arson: 0 (1)

#### City of Romulus – 2006 (2005)

- population: 23,794 (23,628)
- violent crime overall: 181 (163)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 1 (2)
- forcible rape: 19 (20)
- robbery: 30 (28)
- aggravated assault: 131 (113)
- property crime overall: 1,026 (1,142)
- burglary: 233 (290)
- larceny/theft: 627 (685)
- motor vehicle theft: 166 (167)
- arson: 13 (6)

#### Sumpster Township – 2006 (2005)

- population: 11,892 (11,979)
- violent crime overall: 39 (46)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 1 (1)
- forcible rape: 10 (7)
- robbery: 1 (3)
- aggravated assault: 27 (35)
- property crime overall: 224 (252)
- burglary: 81 (71)

## Taylor "Dollar Home" Program Draws Flood of Inquiries

The launch of the "Taylor Cares" home refurbishment/sale program has drawn overwhelming response, according to the City's Public Information director, David Gorgon.

Under the program, Taylor can purchase certain FHA-foreclosed homes for \$1, hire contractors to refurbish them, and offer them for sale to low- and moderate-income families at market or below-market prices.

Taylor Cares kicked off on November 28, when the City purchased 11 homes from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, which oversees the Federal Housing Administration.

Within a week, the City received so many inquiries about the homes that it has put a temporary moratorium on further queries.

"More than 300 people have already asked about the homes in the Taylor Cares program," Gorgon stated. "The City has also received proposals and bids from more than 30 contractors."

"At this time," he continued, "no additional building contractors should contact the City of Taylor about working

in the program, [and] no further inquiries will be accepted about the availability of homes."

Gorgon said that people interested in obtaining a home in the future should "stay tuned" for updates, since the City plans to consider other homes when the opportunity presents itself. Homes become available when HUD is unable to sell them after a period of six months.

"We will make announcements when additional HUD-foreclosed homes are obtained and the inquiry period reopens," he stated.

John Belanger, Taylor's Community Housing coordinator, said that applicants must meet income guidelines provided by HUD as well as other stipulations in order to be eligible for a Taylor Cares home. He also noted that local financial institutions may offer lower mortgage rates to participants.

Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe and US Representative John D. Dingell, among other officials, hope that the program will reduce the number of vacant homes in Taylor and additionally provide affordable housing to those who need it. □



# Holiday Happenings #1



Jake Matich didn't realize that he was sitting on the lap of his own grandfather (Jim Bryan) when he went to visit Santa at the Brownstown Township tree-lighting on December 6. Jake's grandmother, Sue Bryan, and his mother, Judy Matich, are also pictured.



Among those enjoying the festive spirit at Belleville Isom Memorial CME Church's Holiday Bazaar, held December 1-2, were: (from left) front – Derek Wilson (and Kamauel Watley), Quyen Steward, and Barbara Rupert; back – Rosemary Burgess, Lisa Lewis, DeeDee Watley, and Kim Green.



The Downriver Brass Band (from left: Dan Dobbins, David Yobret, Brian Rogers, Terri Dobbins, and Jeff Iverson) performed seasonal selections for the enjoyment of those waiting to see Santa at the tree-lighting.



Santa's Magic Forest in Taylor is open every weekend in December. See the Community Calendar on page 3 for details.



Jessica Montemayor was another of the children who were eager to tell Santa their Christmas wishes.



Dennis Harding (pictured on ladder) and fellow volunteers Patty Donahue, Perry Durham, Eric Harris, Sharon and Laurie Lodico, Stan Price, Geno Salomone, and Larry and Sarah Wright worked hard on December 1 to erect and put lights (thanks to Taylor WalMart store manager Chris Coffman) on a 20-foot tree in the Taylor Conservatory at Heritage Park.





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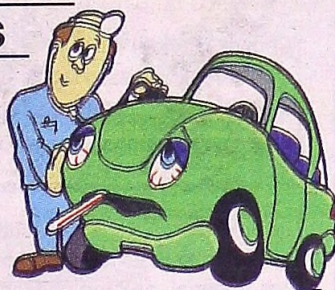
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## Community Calendar

- **Police Recruiting Drive** – The Taylor Auxiliary Police will conduct a recruiting drive from noon to 7 p.m. Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16, in the West Court at the Southland Shopping Center (corner of Eureka and Pardee). Applications will be available. Candidates can meet current officers and view their equipment.
- **Santa's Magic Forest** – Back by popular demand is Santa's Magic Forest – a winter wonderland of animated characters and beautiful holiday light displays that will be open for visitors to Taylor's Heritage Park Activity Building (12111 Pardee) on Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 1 to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 7 p.m. throughout December. Admission is \$3; \$2 for seniors and children 10 and under. Photos with Santa will be available for \$5 each. All proceeds from Santa's Magic Forest benefit Fish & Loaves, a nonprofit organization that provides food to the needy in Taylor and surrounding communities.
- **Reindeer Days** – Visit the Taylor Petting Farm (corner of Pardee and Northline) between noon and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 15, and Sunday, December 16, for the annual Reindeer Days program. Highlights will include a visit from Santa (bring your camera!), caroling by the Taylor Chorus (Sunday only), face-painting, refreshments (free hot chocolate; pizza and cookies for sale), a "stocking stuffers" sale, and photos with the reindeer (\$5 each). Live reindeer will be on display from noon to 3 p.m. A heated shuttle will run free transportation service between the farm and the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee, just north of the farm). Admission is \$3 per person. For more information, call 734-374-5946.
- **Holiday Services at St. Paul** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig, New Boston) invites the public to attend these services: **Third Sunday of Advent\*** (December 16; 10 a.m.), **The Light of the Gentiles** (December 19; 7 p.m.), **Fourth Sunday of Advent** (December 23; 10 a.m.); **Children's Christmas Program** (December 24; 6 p.m.); **Christmas Eve Candlelight: The Glory of the Lord\*** (10 p.m.); **Christmas Day: The Light of the World\*** (10 a.m.); **First Sunday After Christmas** (December 30; 10 a.m.); **New Year's Eve: The Everlasting Light\*** (7 p.m.); and **The Epiphany: Rejoicing in the Light\*** (January 6; 10 a.m.). For more information, call 734-753-9048. \*denotes Communion services
- **Volunteers Serve Free Holiday Dinner** – The "True Meaning of Christmas" is alive and well in the City of Taylor, where a group of volunteers will serve a complimentary holiday dinner to anyone, whether alone, less fortunate, or hungry. The 10th annual dinner is scheduled for noon to 3 p.m. Christmas Day, December 25, at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy, just north of Ecorse and west of Telegraph). The meal will include turkey, ham, white and sweet potatoes, gravy, corn, salad, beverages, and desserts. The dinner is organized by the Donski family, which years ago chose to end its gift exchange and put the money toward a meal for anyone to enjoy. Free transportation will be available for those who need it. Call 313-291-7740.
- **Blood Drive** – The Taylor Police Department will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 27, at the former main fire station (11101 Pine Street, just south of City Hall). Appointments may be made by calling Marge Maladecki (734-374-1445); walk-ins will also be welcomed.
- **New Year's Eve Buffet** – Celebrate New Year's Eve (Monday, December 31, from 4 to 9 p.m.) at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club (25505 Northline), which is planning a holiday bash featuring a delicious appetizer buffet (Swedish meatballs, pears and brie in phyllo dough, assorted cheeses and crackers, fresh fruit, and antipasto skewers), dinner (hand-carved roasted prime rib of beef, Snapper Veracruz, crab-stuffed shrimp, Chicken Veringue, and more), and dessert display. Seating is by reservation only. For more information, call 734-287-9001.
- **Senior Citizens' New Year's Party** – A catered meal and musical entertainment will be among the highlights of the New Year's Bash to be held at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy, Taylor) on Wednesday, January 9, from 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets (\$15) must be purchased by Wednesday, January 2; no tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, please call 313-291-7740.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; e-mail it to [thelittlepaper@comcast.net](mailto:thelittlepaper@comcast.net); or FAX it to 734-992-2052.



## Letter to the Editor

### No New Cemetery Rules Needed

To the Editor:

The City of Romulus recently held an open meeting regarding proposed new rules and regulations for Romulus Memorial Cemetery. I couldn't attend because it conflicted with a meeting of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education, of which I am a trustee. Since I was unable to express my concerns in person that evening, I would like to do so here, in this letter.

First of all, I strongly feel that every lot owner and/or resident should have been notified about the meeting due to the drastic changes proposed. These changes included:

- giving the City the right to amend its cemetery rules *without notice*.
- permitting only permanent vases, as specified.
- allowing flowers only in prescribed vases, with all others thrown away weekly when the cemetery is mowed.
- a ban on all statuary and other ceramic, terra cotta, resin, and other items.
- a ban on all plantings except those done by cemetery staff (of which I see no evidence in the newer sections).
- a ban on all coping, curbing, fencing, borders, rocks, bark, or other like materials.

No grandfather clause was included for existing decorations or plants – just Article III, which, translated, would state that any plantings or materials not approved must be removed or would be removed at the lot owner's expense.

Additionally, the new rules provide for three cleanup dates when all decorations must be removed, with the second of these being just two weeks after Memorial Day, when the majority of family members decorate.

I want our hometown cemetery kept just that. Don't compare us to a large or for-profit cemetery. I am a person who feels a peace and serenity when I see God's beauty in growing things. If you've ever planted annuals at the cemetery, you would know that they require regular care and watering to survive due to the sandy-type soil. That's one reason that many working people have begun using artificial flower arrangements. Remember: Everyone grieves in their own way, and many could not afford the proposed required vases.

Regarding a related item ... I heard it was recommended that Council appoint a committee to gather information about the possible need for changing our cemetery rules, and report that information back to Council. The next thing I knew, Item 6A4 ("An Ordinance to Amend the Romulus Code of Ordinances by the Establishment of a Board

of Cemetery Trustees") was on the Council's November 13 Agenda. (That item was subsequently removed from the Agenda at the start of the meeting.)

For over 40 years, the management of Romulus Memorial Cemetery has been handled through the Office of the City Clerk, with Department of Public Works union employees responsible for opening and closing graves plus all maintenance and groundskeeping.

Now, they want the Mayor, with Council's consent, to appoint five people to a "Board of Cemetery Trustees" that would have the power and duty to control, operate, manage, maintain, and preserve Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

The proposed duties of the Board of Cemeteries included a long list that ran from items (a) through (k). Among these duties (letter "g") was making recommendations for Council's appointment of "the necessary superintendents and employees" for the cemetery. I wanted to scream, "What about the City's union hourly employees whose current job is working at the cemetery?" We need to watch which elected officials support the union hourly employees, and which support only the appointed employees.

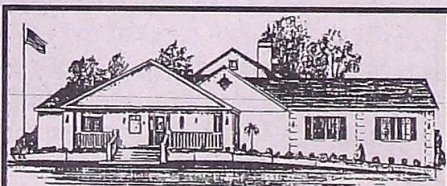
Because I have many loved ones buried at Romulus Memorial Cemetery, I want the *power* to remain where it is.

Sandra L. Crout  
Romulus

\* \* \*

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so.*

*The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity. □*



~ Crane ~

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## Guest Commentary

### Animal Shelter Fund Reaches \$121,000

By Councilman Bill Wadsworth, City of Romulus

In 2004, with the support of Mayor Alan R. Lambert and my Council colleagues, I established a fund allowing the public to make tax-deductible donations toward building a new animal shelter without using tax dollars.

Since then, we have raised approximately \$121,000 in cash, as well as about \$40,000 in pledges of time, labor, and materials from local businesses. The donated services will include demolition of the old structure, preparation of the new foundation, installation of water and sewer lines, painting of the exterior and interior, and making/installing cabinets, counters, and trim.

I want to thank the following for their help in this continuing effort:

- the children, parents, and staff members at various Romulus schools, whose hard work on numerous candy sales, newspaper/penny drives, spirit competitions, and other fund-raising events has made them the single largest contributor to the fund thus far;

- the employees and volunteers at the Romulus Senior Center, the Romulus Fire Department, and other City offices, all of whom have tirelessly promoted the project;
- the many local businesses and community groups that have supported this worthy cause by making cash donations and/or sponsoring fund-raisers; and
- the hundreds of individual residents who have sent in their checks, asking nothing in return except the construction of a clean, decent animal shelter, and the chance to rid our city of the current eyesore at Wayne and Goddard roads.

If I've missed anyone in this list, I apologize. You all know who you are and what you did for the fund. I appreciate each and every one of you.

As this year comes to an end, I encourage all of you to use the form on page 5 to make your tax-deductible donation for 2007. And, in 2008, I ask that everyone make a resolution to get more involved. For more information, call me at 734-941-0616. □

## the little paper

P.O. Box 74038 • Romulus, MI 48174-0038

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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The little paper is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and the little paper are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

The little paper invites individuals and organizations to submit articles and letters that may be of interest to its readers; however, the little paper is not responsible for the content of such material, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. The little paper reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, inaccuracies, misspellings, and grammatical errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of the little paper. All letters, commentaries, and other submissions must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although we will make every attempt to do so.

The little paper reserves the right to run special advertising rates for each area covered by its distribution without effect on normal contractual rates.

The little paper will furnish "personal" (nonbusiness) advertisements, free of charge, to residents in its distribution area on a "space available" basis.

While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, the little paper is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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(734) 697-9800 Fax (734) 697-9861**Romulus School District Honors Kilanski Family for Its Tradition of Generosity**

(From left) Taking part in a brief ceremony recognizing the Kilanski family for its past and present generosity to the Romulus Community Schools were Don Morris, RCS Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations, who is himself a lifelong resident of Romulus, as well as honorees Walter Kilanski, Charles Kilanski, Joyce Kilanski, and Virginia Robakiewicz.

The Romulus Community Schools Board of Education has recognized one of the city's "established" families for its continued generosity to the District.

The Kilanskis - property owners in what was then Romulus Township since 1930 - have a long history of giving both time and money to Romulus schools. Joseph, father of 1972 Romulus High School alumnus Charles, was frequently active at the old East Tyler School, and once donated four trees to Cory Elementary on Arbor Day, 1961, when his son was a student there.

Today, Charles is continuing the family tradition by donating a 6.132-acre parcel of land to the Romulus Community Schools. The property - located in the north part of the Legacy Park

Subdivision, west of Cogswell Road and north of Tyler Road - contains a stand of old-growth hardwood trees, an open water pond, a flowing stream, and wetlands vegetation. Charles would like the land to be used to establish "The Joseph and Charlotte Kilanski Nature Preserve" to ensure that his family's understanding and appreciation of nature is shared with the children of the District.

On November 26, 2007, the Romulus Board of Education adopted a resolution of commendation for the Kilanski family, recognizing them for their many years of generosity and dedication to the District.

A brief ceremony in the Kilanskis' honor was attended by several members of the family. □

**Huron School District****Announces Limited "School of Choice" Openings****"Great Kids, Great Families, Great Schools"****Huron Offers a Big Time Education in a Small Town Setting****Section 105 Only****Second Semester 2007 - 2008 Openings Include:****Sunnyside Kindergarten Center****Kindergarten 2 Spaces Available****Brown Elementary School****1st Grade 1 Space Available****2nd Grade 3 Spaces Available****3rd Grade 2 Spaces Available****4th Grade 1 Space Available****5th Grade 1 Space Available****Miller Elementary School****1st Grade No Vacancy****2nd Grade 4 Spaces Available****3rd Grade 2 Spaces Available****4th Grade 3 Spaces Available****5th Grade No Vacancy****Renton Junior High****6th Grade No Vacancy****7th Grade No Vacancy****8th Grade No Vacancy****Huron High School****9th Grade No Vacancy****10th Grade 3 Spaces Available****11th Grade 3 Spaces Available****12th Grade 3 Spaces Available**

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Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."





# SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

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**Wishing Everyone Happy & Healthy Holidays**

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from Romulus Lanes  
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## New Year's Eve Bowling Party

December 31, 2007

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\$30 per person – Includes  
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Thank you for lighting up our year  
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wonderful  
holiday season  
filled with peace  
and happiness.





# SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect LeRoy Burcroff

*Joy  
& Peace*  
TO ALL THE WORLD

Wishing you and yours  
all the best at this  
sacred time of year.

**LeRoy Burcroff**  
Councilman, City of Romulus



Thanks for visiting us  
this past year.

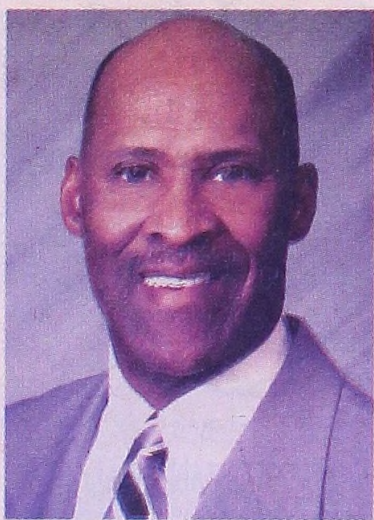
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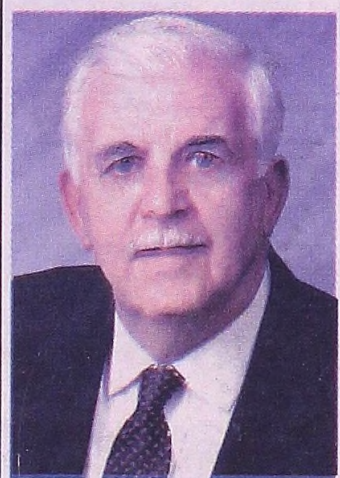


*Share The Spirit!*



There's no better time  
than the holiday season to say  
thanks for your loyal support. It's  
truly a privilege to serve you.

**RANDY GEAR**  
Chairman, Romulus City Council  
Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Randolph Gear



Paid for by the Committee to Elect William Wadsworth

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

From our family to yours:  
Have a safe, healthy, and happy  
holiday season.

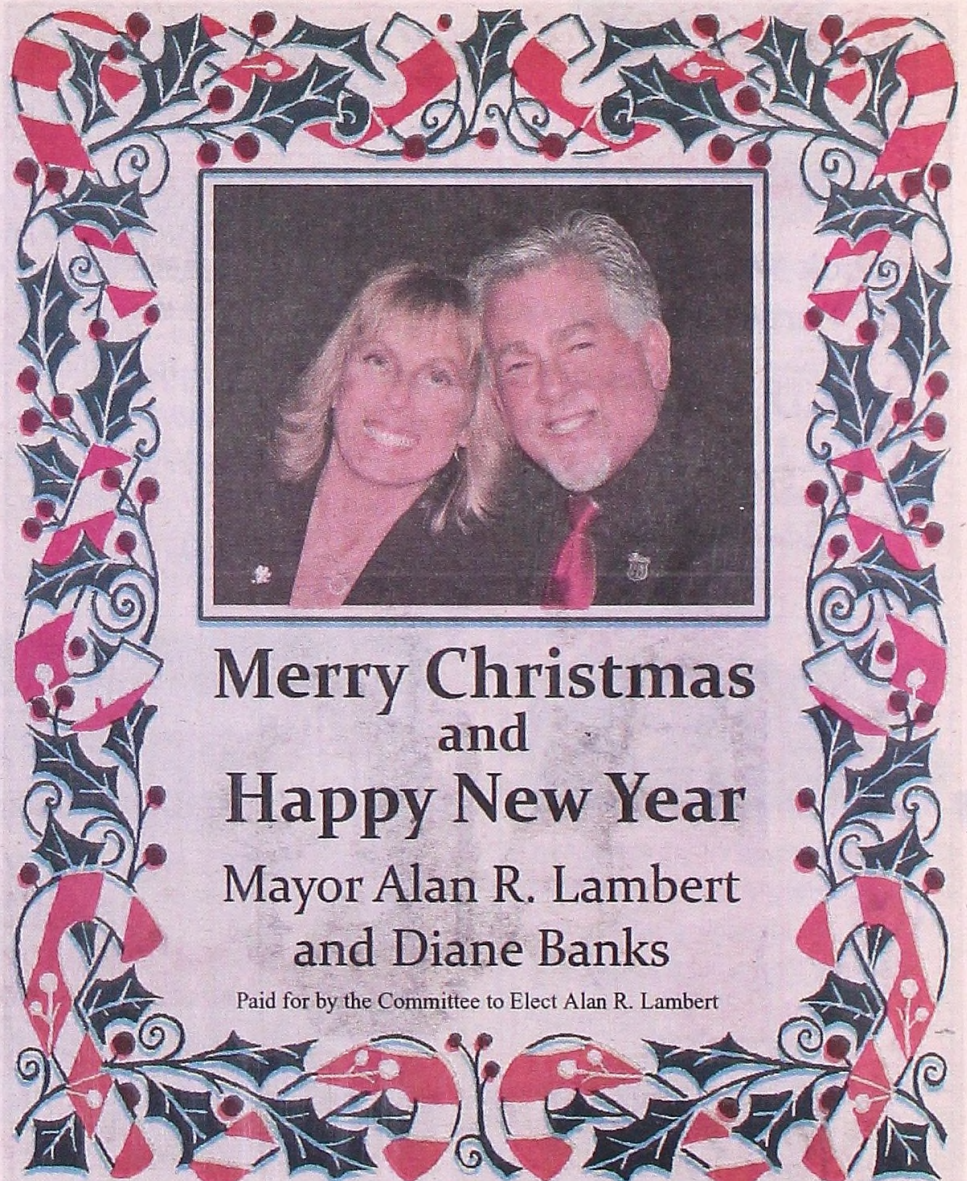
Councilman Bill Wadsworth,  
Jean Wadsworth, grandchildren  
Sarah, Andrew, Elizabeth, and William,  
and the rest of the Wadsworth Clan

P.S. Adopt a pet!



**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year**  
Mayor Alan R. Lambert  
and Diane Banks

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Alan R. Lambert





# SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

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OF THE  
SEASON**

and all good wishes for  
a happy new year.

**Linda Choate**  
Romulus City Clerk



Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Linda Choate

## Sweet Tidings to You

*Happy holidays to all of you, and many thanks  
for making this past year a real treat for us!*

**Romulus City Councilman John Barden,  
Mrs. Janice Barden, and  
Grandchildren Andrianna, John, Miyon, & Miyona**



**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

from

Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout,  
Romulus School Board Member Sandy  
Crout, & Family (Terri & Randy Moffat &  
granddaughters Savannah & Miranda)

*"We are just a phone call away"*

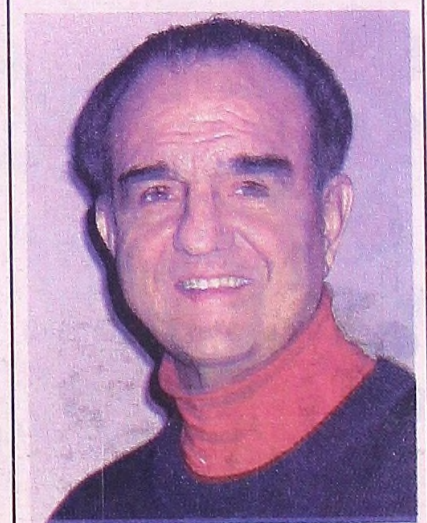
**Wishing You**



It's been a pleasure serving  
you this year. Best wishes for  
the holidays.

**Ken Mientkiewicz**  
President  
Romulus Board of Education

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ken Mientkiewicz







# SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

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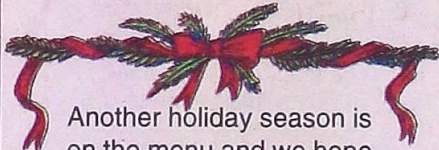


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HOLIDAY  
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TO EVERYONE!**

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Say "Thanks!"*



and to wish you a season of peace and joy. We loved every minute of serving you this past year.

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## GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

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# SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

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Happy holidays to all our best friends. Knowing you gives us a warm fuzzy feeling all over!



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to our many readers, advertisers, and distributors for their loyal support during the past year. Here's hoping that all your news is good news this beautiful holiday season.

the gals at the little paper





## Romulus High School Students Create Project STAR To Inspire Young Readers



(From left) Romulus High School media specialist Alberta Garrett is mentoring Project STAR members Dyonna White, Eric Berger, Clara Windom, and Rachel Arthur as they work to inspire preschoolers to read.

A group of four Romulus High School seniors is doing its part to help District preschoolers become skilled, motivated readers.

These students – Rachel Arthur, Eric Berger, Dyonna White, and Clara Windom – have founded Project STAR (Seniors Teaching Avid Reading) to introduce youngsters to the joy of reading and inspire them to learn to read more.

"If children are to become proficient readers, they must read independently and with persistence," says Alberta Garrett, RHS media specialist and mentor to the Project STAR members. "This will not happen unless students are motivated and interested in reading, according to the Research Foundation for 'Read Now with Power Up!'"

STAR members were inspired to form their group by Channel One, a cable news program for high-schoolers. The program is sponsoring a contest with a top prize consisting of a check for \$5,000 in school funding, an array of

new camera equipment, and a "Take Action One Cup Trophy."

To qualify for award consideration, Project STAR members must implement a program that exhibits creativity and dedication to the community, and that will help others who live there. Students must also submit a 500-word essay and a 3-minute video about their project.

To begin accomplishing their goal, Project STAR members traveled to the Burton Center on December 4, determined to share the joy of reading with some of the 170 students enrolled in the local Head Start program. They spent time reading aloud to each class, and also provided each preschooler with a book of his/her very own to take home and share with other family members.

In recognition of the RHS seniors' efforts, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education proclaimed December 4, 2007, as "Avid Reading Day," and directed all students throughout the District to read at 10 a.m. that day. □

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# Spectacular "Home for the Holidays" Is a Priebe Tradition



Terrie Priebe, an accomplished designer and antiques collector, spends weeks decorating her home for the holiday. (all photos by Kathleen Trent)

By Kathleen Trent

It takes only seconds after walking into the Priebe house to know that the spirit of Christmas is alive and well.

Terrie Priebe, wife of Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe, has made a tradition of spending a considerable amount of time getting her home ready for the holidays. Each year, the accomplished designer and antiques collector—dubbed by many as the "Martha Stewart of Taylor"—works for weeks to put up hundreds of Christmas ornaments, decorations, and collectibles in keeping with the spirit of the season.

The Priebe's English Tudor-style home, built in the early 1900s, has an inherent beauty of its own, but at the holidays, Terrie brings it to life. Her labor of love includes placing collectibles, arranging vignettes, and decorating 14 Christmas trees. There is at least one tree in every room of their house.

Wonderful holiday characters seem to catch the eye throughout the Priebe's home. Santas and snowmen abound! The rooms feature many Santa collectibles along with other holiday pieces. Signs placed carefully through the house

quietly advise visitors to "Believe."

Terrie said she started her collection shortly after her marriage to Cameron 21 years ago.

"I began collecting antique Santa planters, and it grew from there," she explained. "I collected Santas and also received many as gifts."

An antique hutch sitting in the corner of her great room holds many of the Santa treasures.

Terrie's collection includes such antique collectibles as vintage celluloid pieces, porcelain planters from Japan and elsewhere, cross-stitched characters, "spaghetti glass," pottery, and lighted pieces. Her great room includes a fine collection of H. Hargrove paintings—and, when it comes time for the holidays, she adds her Hargrove Christmas prints, producing a gallery effect.

Terrie Priebe is a fun and friendly person who prefers to talk more about her family than herself, but it is evident that among her many talents is that of interior design. The 14 Christmas trees found in her house are a combination of tabletop and full sizes, each individually and elegantly decorated according to its



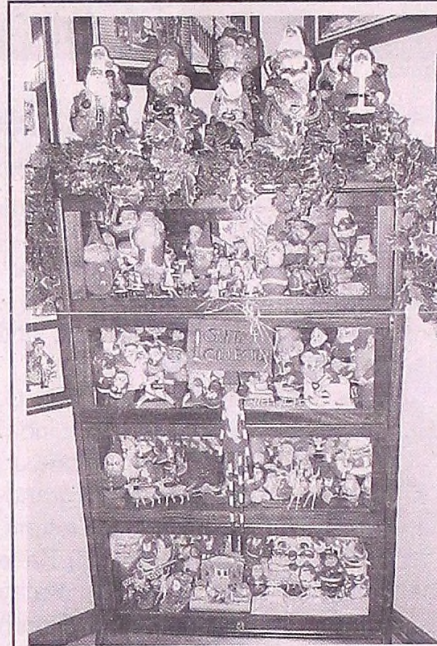
A gingerbread tree adds seasonal cheer to the kitchen.

own theme. Tree themes include Santa, gingerbread, snowmen, angels, candy canes, country, patriotic, advertising, and Harley Davidson (a small tree for her husband, who has been spotted from time to time—in warmer weather—on his motorcycle).

Terrie has a knack for finding treasures. Each piece is a pleasure to look at. She has found many of her collectibles at antique stores, arts and crafts shops, flea markets, and some online stores. She can also, at times, be found at the Town Peddler Antique Mall in Livonia, operating her own specialty shop.

Her talent for holiday interiors makes her home a pleasure to visit. Like many people with collectibles, she says there is a story behind every piece. Her vintage Christmas card collection is one example.

When Terrie was attending an estate sale in Taylor, she found that the lady who had lived there (and had recently passed away) was named Vera. Vera and her husband Jim, to whom she had been married for many years, had kept all the Christmas cards they re-



Every room in the house features colorful attractions for children.

ceived. Terrie learned that the couple had no children, so she decided to do what a daughter might have done, and preserved their memory by framing their beautiful Christmas cards. At the holidays, she hangs the vintage Christmas card collection on the wall, and the legacy of the former Taylor couple continues on.

The holiday collectibles and decorations that fill the Priebe's home are carefully wrapped each year and stored in a "coal room" in the basement until the holiday season beckons.

When it is time to bring them out, it can take Terrie many long hours to unwrap and place everything—but, after talking with her, it becomes apparent why she takes the time to attend to so many details: her family. Her home is enjoyed by friends and family alike, including the children, and especially the grandchildren. She automatically smiles when she talks of them. For her, seeing the excitement in her grandchildren makes it all worth while.

"Their eyes light up," she said. "They like to look at everything, and enjoy it so much." □

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## Obituaries

### Jackie Daniels

Jackie Daniels of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at the age of 71.

Jackie—born in Hanging Limb, Tennessee, on Sunday, June 28, 1936—enjoyed coaching baseball, golf, and deer hunting.

He is survived by his wife, May G. (Suggs) Daniels; 2 sons, Doug (Linda) Daniels (Westland, MI) and Jackie Jr. (Jill) Daniels (New Boston, MI); a granddaughter, Emily Grace Daniels; 4 sisters, Patsy (Neil) Jardgan (Clinton, TN), Katie (Lannie) Fox (Lake City, TN), Kathy Burris (Briceville, TN), and Daisy (Glenn) Turner (Louisville, KY); and 5 brothers,

Ralph (Kathy) Daniels (Briceville), Darris (Patricia) Daniels (Briceville), Arnold (Lorraine) Daniels (Clinton), Doug Daniels (Marion, AZ), and David Daniels (Oak Ridge, TN).

Among those who preceded him in passing were his parents, Denton and Vaudie (Narrod) Daniels, as well as 5 siblings, JoAnna, Donnie, Trula, Roy, and Dimple.

A funeral service was held at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Tommy Swindol (Kirby Freewill Baptist Church, Flat Rock, MI) officiating.

Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens—West (Westland, MI).

### Dale Rietz



Dale Rietz

the US Navy during World War II. He was employed by Kodak in Rochester, New York, before moving to Michigan in 1972; worked at Hite Photo in Detroit for many years until it closed; then worked a final eight years at Walt Michal's RV Center in Belleville until he retired in September of 2006.

Among Dale's hobbies were music, sports, NASCAR auto racing, and cars in general. He was proud to have owned many new cars in his lifetime. Dale also enjoyed having coffee with his friends at the Red Apple and going to the casino with his wife, Martha "Marty" Rietz, whom he loved so much.

Dale is survived by his wife; 8 children, Lee, Gail, Terry, April, David, Rich, Tim, and Eva; 2 stepchildren, Kim and Donna; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Among those who predeceased him were his son, John (who passed away in 2005), and a brother, Ray.

He was interred at Michigan Memorial Cemetery (Flat Rock) on Thursday, November 19, 2007. □

Dale Rietz of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at the age of 82.

The former resident of Belleville, Michigan, was born on October 5, 1925, in Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Dale proudly served his country in

### FBI Reports Crime Statistics

continued from page 1

- larceny/theft: 128 (151)
- motor vehicle theft: 15 (30)
- arson: 11 (2)

#### City of Taylor – 2006 (2005)

- population: 64,800 (65,436)
- violent crime overall: 234 (233)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 4 (1)
- forcible rape: 33 (26)
- robbery: 78 (67)
- aggravated assault: 119 (139)
- property crime overall: 2,736 (3,043)
- burglary: 382 (455)
- larceny/theft: 1,983 (2,117)
- motor vehicle theft: 371 (471)
- arson: 37 (16)

#### Van Buren Township – 2006 (2005)

- population: 27,073 (26,467)
- violent crime overall: 32 (34)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 1 (0)
- forcible rape: 3 (4)
- robbery: 4 (14)
- aggravated assault: 24 (16)
- property crime overall: 198 (512)
- burglary: 21 (78)
- larceny/theft: 131 (357)
- motor vehicle theft: 46 (77)
- arson: 4 (4)

For more information, visit the FBI Web site – [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) – and click on the "Reports & Publications" link along the lefthand margin. □

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**HOLIDAY  
GREETINGS**

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# Holiday Happenings #2



The festive smiles of (from left) Jennifer Hadyniak, Julie Albert, and Maria Lambert inspired area motorists to give generously during the Romulus Goodfellows' annual paper drive, held December 1-2.



Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert (left) presented Santa Claus with a Key to the City at the annual tree-lighting ceremony on November 30. Also on hand were (from left) Barth Elementary student Jamesha Kirkland (who was chosen to light the tree), Councilman LeRoy Burcroff, "Christmas Carol," and Councilman Bill Wadsworth.



At the Romulus Recreation Department's Lunch with Santa (December 8), children like Asa and Hannah Varner shared their Christmas wishes.



Among those who visited with Santa at Progressive Hall after the Romulus tree-lighting were (from left) Felisha Nerone, Giovanna Pidilla, Dominic Pidilla, Destiny Haskins, and Vincent Ciccarelli.



The Romulus Public Library's annual Tree-trim, held on December 1, featured popcorn-and-cranberry stringing, ornament crafting (one for the Library and one to take home), a pizza feast, and storytime with Santa.



Children waiting to see Santa Claus made holiday cards (courtesy of the Romulus Recreation Department's Abrakadoodle art education program) and enjoyed refreshments.



# Business Directory

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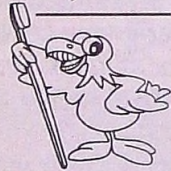
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